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SCIENCE

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THE NEW ORLEANS MEETING.

THE meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at New Orleans is a further step towards making the association truly national and representative of the men of science of the whole country. There has been a natural tendency for the association and its affiliated societies to meet near the center of scientific population, and it is of course under these conditions that the largest number of members can be brought together. But our scientific workers are by no means confined to the eastern and central states. When the association in 1901 met for the first time west of the banks of the Mississippi it was a natural acknowledgment of the westward extension of scientific institutions. The meeting at Denver was decided on with some hesitation, but it proved to be one of the most interesting in the history of the association. Not since 1850 has the association met further south than Nashville and St. Louis. But the south is now making marvelous progress in its material resources, and its educational and scientific development will soon be in equal measure. Tulane, Texas and other universities already occupy a foremost position, and their growth as centers of scientific research is certain.

A meeting of the association at New Orleans is a proper acknowledgment of

what has been accomplished in the south and an encouragement for further efforts. It will be attended by a large number of scientific men who live within a radius of 500 miles, and should prove unusually attractive to those living in the eastern, north central and western states. The southern and central passenger associations have granted a return ticket for one fare plus twenty-five cents, and this alone should lead many to enjoy a most pleasant and healthful trip. The association has not hitherto been able to obtain these terms, but the great meetings of the National Educational Association, reaching the tens of thousands, have been in large measure due to such arrangements, leading many to take an agreeable and profitable holiday trip at reasonable expense. Anybody who is tired or has a cold can not do better for himself than to go to New Orleans next week. But there are larger motives for those who are interested in the scientific development of the country and in the solidarity of scientific men to add to the success of the approaching meeting by their attendance. The best train for eastern members appears to be one over the Southern Railway, leaving New York at 4:25, Philadelphia at 6:50 and Washington at 10:45 P.M. After a day's journey over an interesting country, the train reaches New Orleans at 7:15 on the following morning. Those who take this train on Tuesday or Wednesday are sure to find good company, and the railway will supply a special car, should there be enough applications for berths.

The scientific program of the New Or-

leans meeting is of very considerable interest. The address of the retiring president, Professor W. G. Farlow, is entitled 'The Popular Conception of a Scientific Man at the Present Day.' The retiring vice-presidents will make addresses as follows:

Vice-President Ziwet, before the Section of Mathematics and Astronomy: 'On the relation of mechanics to physics.'

Vice-President Kinnicutt, before the Section of Chemistry: 'The sanitary value of a water analysis.'

Vice-President Smith, before the Section of Geology and Geography: 'On some Post-Eocene and other formations of the Gulf Region of the United States.'

Vice-President Merriam, before the Section of Zoology: Title to be announced later.

Vice-President Magie, before the Section of Physics: 'The partition of energy.'

Vice-President Robinson before the Section of Botany: Title to be announced later.

Vice-President Knapp, before the Section of Social and Economic Science: 'Transportation and Combination.'

Vice-President Jacobus, before the Section of Mechanical Science and Engineering: 'Commercial investigations and tests in connection with college work.'

Vice-President Hough, before the Section of Anthropology: 'Pueblo environment.'

The sectional programs will include many interesting papers. Thus the Section of Physiology and Experimental Medicine has arranged a timely discussion on 'Yellow Fever and other Insect-borne Diseases,' which will be taken part in by a number of leading students of the subject.

When the association meets in one of the large eastern cities, the interest is largely confined to the scientific programs. But New Orleans and the neighboring regions

have many of the attractions of a foreign country, which are entirely unknown to most scientific men of the eastern, central and western states. Further, it is a real privilege for the scientific men and other residents of the city to entertain the association for the first time, and the entertainments and excursions will be more attractive and characteristic than at the ordinary meetings.

The American Chemical Society, The Botanical Society of America and some seven other societies will meet with the association at New Orleans. But many of the national scientific societies will this year meet in widely separated places, as shown in the program printed under 'Societies and Academies.' It is natural that these societies, whose programs depend largely on a compact group of members, could not undertake the wider mission of the American Association. It is also true that there are attractions in smaller meetings in university towns, which can not be sacrificed without regret. It is to be hoped that ultimately convocation week will be left free for a national meeting of scientific men, and that the association will in the summer organize a less formal meeting at one of the smaller university towns or other places where social life may be informal and pleasant. Such a plan is proposed next year for Ithaca. The national societies devoted to special sciences will of course meet when and where their interests will be best served, but it is not likely that it will prove advantageous to meet at the same time as the larger group and in a different place. We may in any

case count on an increasing spirit of cooperation among our scientific men and a gradual elimination of difficulties that are inevitable when adjustments must be made to new conditions. Perhaps all that can be expected or is desirable at present is that all scientific men should meet at the same place every second or third year. It was intended to arrange for a common meeting in Boston next year, but owing to the fact that the American Medical Association and the International Zoological Congress will meet in that city, it may be found wise to postpone the Boston meeting. In that case New York City appears to be the most desirable place for a convocation week meeting of the scientific men of the country.

ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.¹

I.

THE motive of the department was to diffuse and incidentally to increase knowledge of man and his works. Hence, the primary purpose was essentially educational; and the work of the department was distinctive, if not unique, in that it embraced research in a degree comparable with that accorded to original work in modern institutions of higher learning.

Anthropology is the science of man. In the broad sense it deals with all mankind and their attributes. Its aims and purposes are connected with man as an organism, and as the type of the class of living things distinguished by mentality; also it deals with mankind as an assemblage of

¹ Opening chapter of the final report of the chief of the department of anthropology, entitled 'Motive and Scope of the Department'; published with approval of Hon. David R. Francis, president, and Hon. F. J. V. Skiff, director of exhibits of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.